Copy.

Boston, March 7, 1879.

134

Dear Mr. Grover:

I have to thank you, first, for a copy of the Chicago Sentinel, containing your eloquent protest against the dastardly treatment of the Chinese immigrants on the Pacific coast, and the "mad-dog" cry which, in that quarter especially, is demanding the immediate abrogation of the Burlingame Treaty; and, secondly, your excellent letter on the same subject, which quickly followed it. Both are in the true spirit of old-time abolitionism, and I read them with great interest and satisfaction. In return, I send you a copy of the Boston Traveller, containing my rejoinder

Hs.A.1.1 v.9, p.208

(which first appeared in the New York Tribune) to a letter of Senator Blaine on this question. I have not a complete copy left of my first criticism of Mr. Blaine's speech in the U. S. Senate, to which his long and elaborate letter in the Tribune was in reply; but I enclose a printed extract from it, from which you can infer the quality of the rest.

I am receiving from all quarters verbally and through the mail the warmest commendations of those strictures, together with expressions of the deepest regret and surprise that Mr. Blaine should be found leading the van (after Denis Kearney) in contemptible race proscription. In fact, it is essentially the old anti-slavery issue in another form — whether one portion of mankind may rightfully claim superiority over

another on account of birth, descent, or nativity, or for any other reason, and deny to them those rights and interests which pertain to our common humanity. After the successful struggle to emancipate the Southern bondmen from their chattelized condition and to elevate them to the plane of American citizenship, I did not imagine that any occasion could arise on our soil for the persecution of any other class, because "not to the manner born" as in the case of the Chinese immigrants on the Pacific coast, who have the same rights to the enjoyment of "life, liberty" and the pursuit of happiness" among us, that is accorded to those who have come to us by millions from Great Britain and continental Europe. The paradoxes of human nature

are as grotesque as they are inscrutable.

The veto of the anti-Chinese bill by President Hayes has, for the time being at least, saved us from fresh national dishonor; but its tone is low, and its dissent too purely technical to be highly creditable to its author. We must be prepared for another congressional effort to suppress Chinese immigration.

Yours to defend the weak and oppressed,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

To A. J. Grover,
in 1887, @ Meadow Brook Farm,
Shawsheen, Mass.

Ms.A.1.1 V.9, p.708